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~~a closure member for covering the installation opening, the closure member made of elastomeric material, the closure member including an extension attachable to one of an interior of the housing, an exterior of the housing and the installation opening of the housing; and~~

~~a holding member hingedly connecting the extension of the closure member to the housing such that the closure member remains connected to the housing when the installation opening is both covered and uncovered by the closure member.~~

#### REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is requested.

Claim 1 has been amended and claim 2 has been canceled.

Claims 1-6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arbeiter, U.S. Patent 5,964,123, in view of Rausing, U.S. Patent 4,391,385. The examiner states that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Arbeiter in view of the teachings of Rausing to include a plastic closure member to cover the opening in the shift mechanism to provide an easily installed resealable closure member to decrease the overall manufacture time and increase the overall convenience of gaining access to a Bowden cable.

Claim 1 has been amended to state that the holding member hingedly connects an extension of the closure member to the housing such that the closure member remains connected to the housing when the installation opening is both covered and uncovered. Arbeiter and Rausing disclose a cover that is removed from the housing when it is in an open position. Arbeiter discloses a cover 30 that may be provided to cover an opening 13 in a bicycle shifter. When the cover is removed from the opening it does not remain attached to

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the housing, see specification at col. 6, lines 35-45 and FIG. 10. The closing arrangement of Rausing includes a cover plate 8 that covers a hole 17 of a metal can. The cover plate 8 is connected on the one hand to a relatively thin strip 10 at a connecting point 11, and on the other hand to a gripping tag 9. The plastic material in the strip 10 and at the connecting point 11 is so thin that the cover disc can easily be removed from the hole 17 by being torn along the connecting point 11, see specification at col. 2, lines 36 – 44. The combination of Arbeiter and Rausing does not teach or suggest a holding member that connects an extension of a closure member that covers an opening to a housing such that it remains connected to the housing during both its open and closed positions as claimed in claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 on obviousness should be withdrawn.

Further, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not look to the teachings of Rausing because it is non-analogous art. The present invention relates to a closure member for an installation opening in a bicycle shift mechanism and Rausing discloses a cover for an opening in a metal container or can. Therefore, there is no teaching to combine Rausing with Arbeiter to form the present invention.

Claims 2-6 and 8 were rejected as claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Since claims 2-6 and 8 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all limitations of claim 1 as amended, they are felt to overcome the obviousness rejection in the same manner as amended claim 1.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arbeiter in view of Rausing as applied to claims 1-6 and 8 above, and further in view of Boor. The examiner states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the reference combination previously set forth in view of the teachings of Boor to provide an offset in the housing so as to arrange the upper lip in a recessed manner. As stated above, Arbeiter discloses a cover for an opening in a bicycle

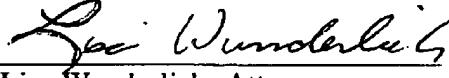
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shifter housing. The cover of Arbeiter does not remain connected to the housing when the opening is both covered and uncovered by the cover. Rausing discloses a closure member that is also removable from a housing. Claim 1 states that an extension of a closure member is connected to a housing such that the closure member remains connected to the housing when the installation opening is both covered and uncovered by the closure member. Therefore, the fact that Boor is combined with Arbeiter and Rausing does not render claim 7 obvious.

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the Examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A housing of a bicycle shifting mechanism, comprising:
  - an installation opening;
  - a closure member for covering the installation opening, the closure member made of elastomeric material, the closure member including an extension attachable to one of an interior of the housing, an exterior of the housing and the installation opening of the housing; and
  - a holding member hingedly connecting the extension of the closure member to the housing such that the closure member remains connected to the housing when the installation opening is both covered and uncovered by the closure member.